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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

AT RICHMOND, OCTOBER 6, 2000

APPLICATION OF

ESSENTIAL.COM, INC.

CASE NO. PUE000386

For a license to conduct
business as a competitive
service provider in electric
and natural gas retail access
pilot programs

ORDER GRANTING LICENSE TO PROVIDE
ELECTRIC AND NATURAL GAS SERVICE

On July 14, 2000, essential.com, inc. ("essential.com" or "Company"), filed an application for licensure to conduct business as a competitive service provider. The application was completed with an amendment to the application filed August 24, 2000. The Company states that it proposes to provide natural gas in the retail access pilot programs of Washington Gas Light Company ("WGL") and Columbia Gas of Virginia, Inc. ("Columbia Gas"), and electricity to customers in the retail access pilot programs of Virginia Electric and Power Company ("Dominion Virginia Power") and Appalachian Power Company d/b/a American Electric Power ("AEP-VA"). By further amendment to its application on August 31, 2000, essential.com stated that it also proposes to provide electricity in the pilot program of Rappahannock Electric Cooperative.

On September 7, 2000, the Commission issued its Order for Notice and Comment, establishing the case, requiring that notice of the application be published, providing for the receipt of comments from the public, and requiring the Commission's Staff to analyze the reasonableness of essential.com's application and present its findings in a Staff Report to be filed on or before September 29, 2000.

The Company filed proof of publication of its notice on September 27 and 28, 2000. No comments from the public on essential.com's application were received.

The Staff filed its Report on September 29, 2000, concerning essential.com's fitness to provide competitive electric and natural gas service. The Staff concluded that essential.com satisfies the financial and technical fitness requirements for licensure, and the Staff recommended that a license be granted to essential.com for the provision of electric service to residential and commercial customers in the Dominion Virginia Power, AEP-VA, and Rappahannock Electric Cooperative pilot programs; and for the provision of natural gas service to residential and commercial customers in the WGL and Columbia Gas pilot programs.

Essential.com did not file a response to the Staff Report.

NOW UPON CONSIDERATION of the application, the Staff Report, and the applicable law, the Commission finds that the

Company's application to provide electric and natural gas service should be granted. Accordingly,

IT IS ORDERED THAT:

(1) essential.com, inc., hereby is granted license No. PE-8 to provide competitive electricity supply service to residential and commercial customers in conjunction with the retail access pilot programs of Dominion Virginia Power, AEP-VA, and Rappahannock Electric Cooperative. This license to act as a competitive service provider is granted subject to the provisions of the Interim Rules Governing Electric and Natural Gas Retail Access Pilot Programs, 20 VAC 5-311-10 et seq. ("Interim Rules"), this Order, and other applicable statutes.

(2) essential.com, inc., hereby is granted license No. PG-6 to provide competitive natural gas supply service to residential and commercial customers in conjunction with retail access pilot programs of WGL and Columbia Gas. This license to act as a competitive service provider is granted subject to the provisions of the Interim Rules Governing Electric and Natural Gas Retail Access Pilot Programs, 20 VAC 5-311-10 et seq. ("Interim Rules"), this Order, and other applicable statutes.

(3) This license shall expire upon termination of the respective pilot programs unless otherwise ordered by the Commission. This license is not valid authority for the

provision of any product or service not identified within the license itself.

(4) Failure of essential.com to comply with the Interim Rules, the provisions of this Order, other State Corporation Commission orders and rules, or other applicable state or federal laws may result in an enforcement action by the Commission including, without limitation, the revocation, suspension, or modification of the license granted herein, the refusal to renew such licenses, the imposition of appropriate fines and penalties, or such other additional actions as may be necessary to protect the public interest.

(5) This case shall remain open for consideration of any subsequent amendments or modifications to these licenses.